

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1-2, 5-14 and 25-26 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 29-38 have been added in which claims 29 and 34 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 101

Claims 27 and 28 are rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 27 and 28 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants therefore believe that the claim rejections under 35 USC § 101 have been obviated.

Allowable Subject Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 4 and 20-24. No amendments have been made to these claims in the above amendment.

The Examiner indicates that claims 16 and 19 both recite a patentable features but objects to them as being dependent upon rejected base claim 15. According to the Examiner's suggestions, claim 3 has been incorporated with the limitation of claim 16. Thus, claim 3 as amended above should now be patentable. So has claim 15, which should now be patentable. Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 15 and thus should also be patentable. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form with the limitations of claim 15. Therefore, claims 19 should be patentable.

Newly Added Claims 29-38

The Examiner indicates in the Office Action that image output time calculating means for calculating an output time for display of the frame, based on the decoding time and the maximum delay time, as recited in claims 4 and 20, is a novel feature. Newly added claims 29 and 34 recite outputting each of the decoded pictures from the at least one decoded picture buffer at a timing determined based on the decoding timing information and the output delay information. As recited in claims 31, 33, 36 and 38, the decoding timing information and the output delay information are inclusive of the

decoding time and the maximum delay time. Therefore, Applicants believe that the newly added claims should be allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,383) and the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chimoto et al. in view of Liu et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,934,335) are respectfully traversed for the benefit of newly added claims 29-38.

Chimoto states in col. 20, lines 12-15 that “[t]he frame memory 460 delays the data output from the frame memory 459 for one-frame period, and supplies the delayed data to the backward predictor 461.” Contrary to the Examiner’s finding in the Office Action that a delay time (one-frame time) is inputted from the frame buffer 460, Chimoto only states that the frame memory 460 delays a data output for a one-frame period. In Chimoto, inputted from the frame memory 460 is data, not a delay time. There is nothing in Chimoto that discloses or teaches an input of a delay time.

Further, Liu et al. states in col. 11, lines 54-57 that “[s]ince motion vectors have already been determined for frame 1302, the encoder may choose to delay the encoding of a new I frame to frame 1308, the next P-frame.” It is clear that there is nothing in Lie et al. that discloses or teaches an input of a delay time.

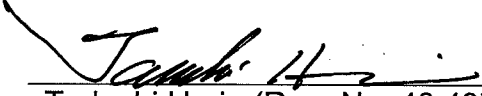
Applicants therefore respectfully submit that newly added claims 29-38 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Chimoto et al. and Lie et al., individually or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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